

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2072

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 0255

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: SANDINO ELECTED TO HEAD CONSERVATIVE PARTY

REF: MANAGUA 4219

SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 16 NICARAGUAN CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PCN) CONVENTION ELECTED NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS HEADED BY DR. RENE SANDINO AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL. SANDINO CHALLENGER, EDUARDO CHAMORRO ENDED HIS CAMPAIGN FOR PARTY PRESIDENCY IN COMPROMISE WITH SANDINO WITH GAINED HIM KEY POSITION OF POLITICAL SECRETARY ON NEW BOARD. NO MAJOR SHIFT IS EXPECTED FROM PCN'S ROLE AS LOYAL OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY

1. PCN CONVENTION TO ELECT NEW BOAGL FOR NEXT THREE YEARS PASSED UNEVENTFULLY AS A RESULT OF COMPROMISE ARRANGED DURING PRECEDING WEEK BETWEEN DR. RENE SANDINO ARGUELLOBC WHO WAS BACKED BY OLD PARTY LEADERSHIP, AND ARQ. EDUARDO CHAMORRO CORONEL, WHO RAN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO PROVE PCN MUST BASE ITS APPEAL ON GRASS ROOTS.

2. CHAMORRO IN STATESMANLIKE SPEECH TO CONVENTION SAID THAT END OF HIS CAMPAIGN RESULTED FROM CONCLUSION THAT DESPITE HIS BEST EFFORTS TO DEVELOP POPULAR SUPPORT FOR HIS CANDIDACY, SANDINO "GATHERED MORE FORCE THAN I". THEREFORE, IT WAS IN PARTY'S INTEREST THAT SANDINO BE ELECTED. FOR HIM IT WAS A "PERSONAL DEFEAT" BUT AT THE SAME

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TIME SANDINO'S ELECTION WOULD CONSTITUTE A "NATIONAL VICTORY". CHAMORRO'S SPEECH WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY DELEGATES AND CAREFULLY SCREENED OBSERVERS. HOWEVER, MANY CHAMORRO BACKERS REPORTED -

LY BELIEVE HE SOLD THEM OUT AND IS UNWORTHY OF THEIR FUTURE CONFIDENCE.

3. OTHER OFFICERS ELECTED ARE: TREASURER-DR. FERNANDO ZELAYA ROJAS; TECHNICAL SECRETARY-DR. EDGAR PAGUAGA MIDENCE; FISCAL-DR. CARLOS SOLORZANO RIVAS; VICE PRESIDENT-LIC. ALVARO CHAMORRO MORA; VICE POLITICAL SECRETARY-LIC. ROBERTO VELEZ BARCENAS; VICE TREASURER-DR. RAMIRO GURDIAN BERMUDEZ.

4. THE EXHAUSTING SPEECHES DURING THE CONVENTION WERE NOTABLE ONLY FOR THE LACK OF SHARP FOCUS ON CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT SOMOZA AND HIS REGIME. NO REFERENCE TO THE U.S. WAS HEARD. THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WAS MENTIONED IN PASSING BY SANDINO IN HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH IN WHICH HE REFERRED TO THIS AS AN AREA OF CONCERN.

5. COMMENT: THE BACKROOM COMPROMISE AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT INFUSION OF NEW BLOOD ON BOARD MADE THE CONVENTION DULL DESPITE SOME ATTEMPTS BY FORMER CHAMORRO SUPPORTERS TO VENT THEIR OUTRAGE. THE RESULT WAS SOME SOUND AND FURY, SIGNIFYING NOTHING IN TERMS OF ANY SHIFT FROM THE PARTY'S LOYAL OPPOSITIONIST ROLE. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND AND BIO INFORMATION FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PGOV, NU, (SANDINO ARGUELLO, RENE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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